

This is an official

## CDC Health Advisory

Distributed via Health Alert Network  
September 16, 2006, 12:31 EDT (12:31 PM EDT)

### **Outbreak of *Botulinum* toxin Type A associated with bottled carrot juice**

A commercial beverage has been confirmed as the cause of a cluster of three botulism cases in Georgia. The three patients had onset of symptoms on Friday, September 8th, after consuming a common meal that included commercially produced carrot juice on Thursday, September 7th. Two bottles of juice were consumed. All three patients drank from bottle #1; whether all three patients drank from bottle #2 is unknown. *Botulinum* toxin type A was identified in the serum and stool of all three patients by mouse bioassay. Subsequently, *botulinum* toxin type A was identified from carrot juice remaining in bottle #1 by mouse bioassay. Bottle #2 had been rinsed with water, and the test for toxin was negative. The label on the implicated bottle reads "Bolthouse Farms, Bakersfield, California, 100% carrot juice." The use by date is 09-18-06.

The investigation is ongoing. It is unknown whether the contaminated juice was subjected to time or temperature abuse that might have facilitated the growth of *Clostridium botulinum* spores, which can survive pasteurization. CDC has not been notified of any cases of suspected botulism since this cluster was reported on September 8. We encourage state and local officials to inquire specifically about consumption of carrot juice in the food history of suspect botulism cases.

CDC has dispatched a notice of this outbreak to public health officials in all 50 states through the Foodborne Disease Listserve, reminding them about the contact numbers for CDC's Botulism Clinical Consultation and Antitoxin Release Service. The Georgia Department of Health issued an Epi-X alert, alerts to Georgia clinicians and local health officials, and a press release about this outbreak and the implicated food. We anticipate that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will be issuing a press release about this outbreak and advising consumers to properly refrigerate juices and follow other food safety guidelines for illness prevention.

Any suspected botulism case reported by a clinician to a state health department should be reported immediately by the state to CDC via the 24/7 CDC Botulism Clinical Consultation and Antitoxin Release Service, by calling the CDC Emergency Operations Center at (770) 488-7100 and asking for the botulism officer on call.

### **Additional Information**

For more information on botulism visit this CDC website  
[http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/botulism\\_g.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/botulism_g.htm)

### **DHEC Contact Information for Reportable Diseases and Reporting Requirements**

Reporting of suspected botulism cases is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law #

44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2006 List of Reportable Conditions available at: [http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/docs/reportable\\_conditions.pdf](http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/docs/reportable_conditions.pdf)

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).

## Regional Public Health Offices

Call reports to the Epidemiology Office in each Public Health Region.

### **Region 1**

#### **(Anderson, Oconee)**

220 McGee Road  
Anderson, SC 29625  
Phone: (864) 231-1966  
Fax: (864) 260-5623  
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-298-4442

#### **(Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Saluda)**

P.O. Box 3227  
1736 S. Main Street  
Greenwood, SC 29646  
Phone: 1-888-218-5475  
Fax: (864) 942-3690  
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-420-1915

### **Region 2**

#### **(Greenville, Pickens)**

P.O. Box 2507  
200 University Ridge  
Greenville, SC 29602-2507  
Phone: (864) 282-4139  
Fax: (864) 282-4373  
Nights / Weekends: (864) 460-5355 or  
1-800-993-1186

#### **(Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union)**

P.O. Box 4217  
151 E. Wood Street  
Spartanburg, SC 29305-4217  
Phone: (864) 596-2227 ext. 210  
Fax: (864) 596-3443  
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-993-1186

### **Region 3**

#### **(Chester, Lancaster, York)**

P.O. Box 817  
1833 Pageland Highway  
Lancaster, SC 29721  
Phone: (803) 286-9948  
Fax: (803) 286-5418  
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-867-3886

#### **(Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland)**

2000 Hampton Street  
Columbia, SC 29204  
Phone: (803) 576-2749  
Fax: (803) 576-2998  
Nights / Weekends: (803) 304-4252

### **Region 4**

#### **(Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter)**

P.O. Box 1628  
105 North Magnolia Street  
Sumter, SC 29150  
Phone: (803) 773-5511  
Fax: (803) 775-9941  
Nights/Weekends: 1-877-831-4647

#### **(Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion)**

145 E. Cheves Street  
Florence, SC 29506  
Phone: (843) 661-4830  
Fax: (843) 661-4859  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 660-8145

### **Region 5**

#### **(Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg)**

P.O. Box 1126  
1550 Carolina Avenue  
Orangeburg, SC 29116  
Phone: (803) 533-7199  
Fax: (803) 533-7134  
Nights / Weekends: (803) 954-8513

### **Region 5 (cont)**

#### **(Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell)**

1680 Richland Avenue, W. Suite 40  
Aiken, SC 29801  
Phone: (803) 642-1618  
Fax: (803) 643-8386  
Nights / Weekends: (803) 827-8668 or  
1-800-614-1519

### **Region 6**

#### **(Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg)**

2830 Oak Street  
Conway, SC 29526-4560  
Phone: (843) 365-3126, ext 138 or ext 174  
Fax: (843) 365-3153  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 381-6710

### **Region 7**

#### **(Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester)**

4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600  
N. Charleston, SC 29405  
Phone: (843) 746-3806  
Fax: (843) 746-3851  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 219-8470

### **Region 8**

#### **(Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper)**

219 S. Lemacks Street  
Walterboro, SC 29488  
Phone: (843) 525-7603, ext 214  
Fax: (843) 549-6845  
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-614-4698

### **Bureau of Disease Control**

#### **Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology**

1751 Calhoun Street  
Box 101106  
Columbia, SC  
Phone: (803) 898-0861  
Fax: (803) 898-0897  
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902

### **Categories of Health Alert messages:**

**Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.